SILVER BUCKTHORN
Sideroxylon alachuense L.C. Anderson
Synonyms: *Bumelia anomala* (Sarg.) Clark; *Bumelia lanuginosa* (Michx.) Pers. var. *anomala* Sarg.
Family: Sapotaceae (sapodilla)
FNAI Ranks: G1/S1
Legal Status: US-none; FL-Endangered


Loran C. Anderson


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Field Description: Small **tree** to 9 m tall, **twigs** light colored (current season's shoots are silvery or green) and nearly hairless when mature, with sharp, green thorns that become short **spur-shoots**. **Leaves** 3.8 - 7.6 cm long, simple, alternate; leaf tips blunt, rounded, or notched; upper surface dark green, lower surface silvery due to smooth, dense covering of hairs; drought-stressed plants have tawny hairs on the lower surface. **Flowers** with 5 - 6 white petals, each with a stamen and appendage on the inner surface; 10 - 20 flowers clustered on each **spur-shoot**. **Fruits** black, oblong.

Similar Species: Wooly buckthorn (*Sideroxylon lanuginosa*) and tough buckthorn (*Sideroxylon tenax*) have brown, hairy twigs and leaves with scruffy, rusty-brown hairs on lower surfaces. Tough buckthorn plants on shell middens in GA and SC have silvery twigs and leaves and closely resemble (and may be intermediate forms of) silver buckthorn.

Related Rare Species: See Thorne's buckthorn (*Sideroxylon thornei*) in this guide.

silver buckthorn ***Sideroxylon alachuense***

Habitat: Upland hardwood forests around limesinks and on shell mounds; calcareous hammocks.

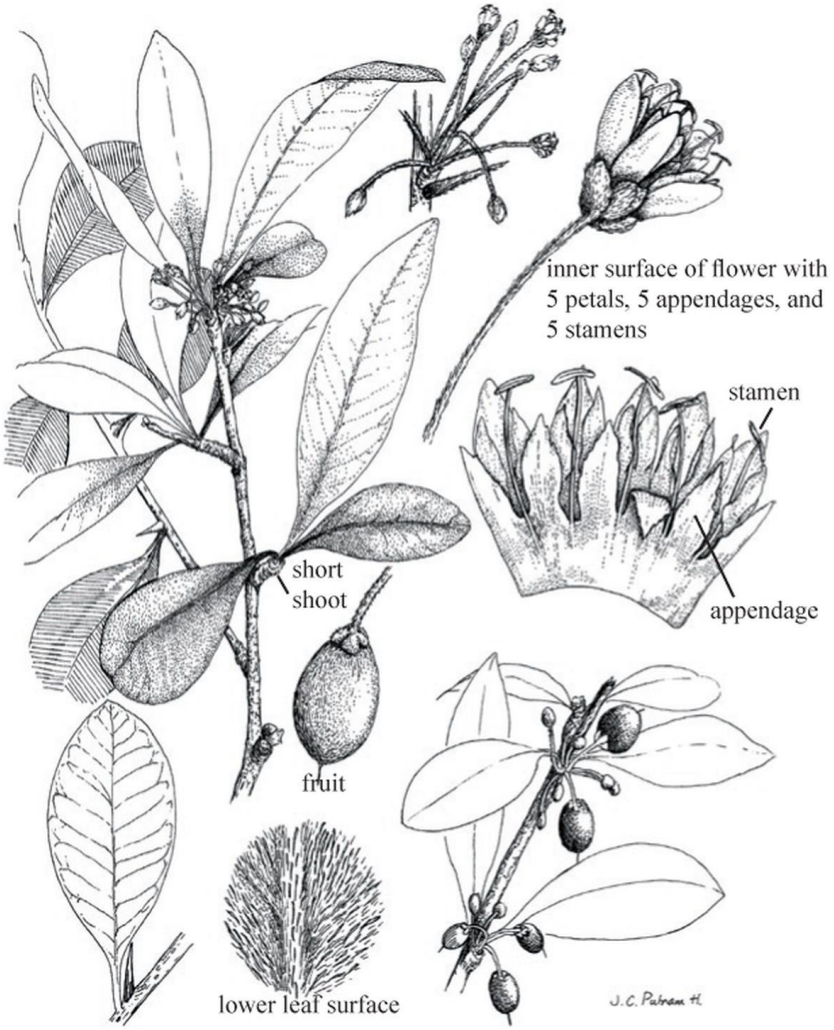
Best Survey Season: Summer; can be identified throughout growing season by silvery undersurface of leaves and nearly hairless twigs.

Range-wide Distribution: Endemic to north-central Florida and adjacent area in southeast GA (hammocks on shell midden within Okefenokee Swamp).

Conservation Status: Only 4 populations are known in the wild in FL, with fewer than 30 plants, most in conservation areas.

Protection and Management: Avoid logging around shell mounds and limesinks. Fence known populations to exclude deer. Conduct field surveys.

References: Anderson 1997, Anderson 2000, Coile 2000, Godfrey 1988, Nelson 1996, Pennington 1990, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.


inner surface of flower with
5 petals, 5 appendages, and
5 stamens
stamen
appendage
short
shoot
fruit
lower leaf surface
J.C. Pabram H.